Credit Facilities to Various Government Offices

4202. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian Airlines has extended credit facilities to various Government offices;

(b) if so, the names of such Government offices in Delhi/New Delhi and outside Delhi.

(c) whether the payments are being received by Indian Airlines from these offices;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and the amount due from each office as on February 28, 1997; and

(e) the steps being taken to recover the same by Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines is, at present, extending credit facilities in all to 793 Government Offices in Delhi/New Delhi and outside Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Unutilised Stores in Orissa

4203. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantum of material and machinery in lying unutilised in Stores of the district Kalahandi in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and its estimated cost;

(c) whether the Government have also received any complaints/requests from the Government of Orissa and also from several Members of Parliament regarding irregularities committed by the Telecom Officers in execution of different development works; and

(d) the action taken proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sir, only one complaint was received from Shri Bhakta Charan Das M.P. which was investigated into and the reply to the Hon'ble M.P. has been sent.

(d) The case has been investigated and no irregularities noticed.

Losses in BALCO

4204. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI R.L.P VERMA :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the economic condition of the Bharat Aluminium Company is gradually worsening;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the losses suffered during each of the last three years;

(c) whether he has received allegations against acting Chairman-cum-Managing Director of the above Company from Labour Unions;

(d) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(e) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(f) the reasons for giving him extension despite already selected a new Chairman-cum-Managing Director?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The net profit earned by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) in the last three years is given below :

Year	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Net Profit (Rs. crores)	15.27	90.51	166.63

(c) to (f) Various complaints against former acting Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of BALCO have been received from Labour Unions of BALCO and are in process. One Labour Union i.e. BALCO Employees Union (Registered & Recognised) has also filed a writ petition in Delhi High Court in the matter and as such the matter is subjudice. In the meantime, the regular CMD of BALCO has since been appointed and has taken charge on the 14th February, 1997 (A/N) and the acting arrangement for the post of CMD has come to an end on 14.2.1997 itself.

Aviation Turbine Fuel Prices

4205. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether aviation turbine fuel prices are being revived for slashing it down to international levels;

(b) if so, the main purpose therefor;

(c) whether all the domestic airlines including the private airlines increased their fares by 20% following

an increase in prices of all petroleum products including ATF; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A proposal for lowering of administered price of aviation turbine fuel (ATF) for domestic operations has been deferred by the Government.

(c) and (d) Domestic fares are not regulated by Government and, therefore, airlines are free to fix any fares in their commercial judgement.

[Translation]

Fault Repair Service

4206. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it takes many days to rectify the fault of deed telephones due to the negligence of employees and corruption;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Whenever any complaints of deliberate delay or adoption of corrupt practices in attending to rectification of faults on dead telephones are received, these are investigated and disciplinary/ administrative action is initiated against the concerned officials.

[English]

Shortage of Trolleys at Calcutta Airport

4207. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Calcutta airport is short of trolleys as reported in 'Asian Age' dated February 2, 1997; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A contract was awarded on 1-2-1997 for provision, retrieval and maintenance of free baggage trolleys. 1500 trolleys wre positioned on 9-2-1997 at Calcutta Airport.

[Translation]

Construction of Overbridges

4208. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places where over bridges have been constructed on rail lines in Bihar during the last two years;

(b) the details of proposals pending with the Union Government for construction of overbridges on rail lines; and

(c) the time by which the said proposals are likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Nil.

(b) and (c) (1) Chakradharpur - State Government has not started work on approaches. (2) Motihari - Railway portion completed. State Government not constructed aproaches. (3) Saharsa - Yet to be sanctioned as State Government has to fulfil certain pre-requisite formalities. (4) Kishanganj - Hatwar - State Government yet to acept the estimate. (5) Fatuah - GAD aproved, estimate sanctioned. (6) Mithapur - sanctioned in 1997-98. (7) Deedarganj - sanctioned in 1997-98. (8) Arrah - Railway portion completed. State Government not started work on approaches. (9) Yar pur - Railway portion completed. One leg opened to traffic. (10) Parasnath - Road Over Bridge dropped by Ministry of Surface Transport. (11) Road Over Bridge on N.H. - 32 at km.339/7-8 between CHAS & Ispatnagar on Talgaria-Tapadir section.

Automatic Telephone Exchange In U.P.

4209. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges functioning at present in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the capacity of these exchanges;

(c) whether the Government contemplate to set up some new automatic telephone exchanges in the remaining districts of the State during 1997-98;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) 1,755 (as on 31.1.1997)

(b) 11,51,694 lines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) above.